

All Sunday School books and the other materials were donated by Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church. The piano, which is still being used, was given to the church by the late Elder Robinson. Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church family under the leadership of Rev. F.C. James donated the first set of pews and hymnals. During the 1970's, the church's attendance declined to less than five, and it became impossible to maintain a full time pastor. The church doors were closed. In the 1980s, Reid Chapel's doors were reopened. And in 1987, the Annual Conference connected Reid Chapel and St. Michael to form a circuit under the pastorate of Rev. Vermell Humes. After Hurricane Hugo in 1989, the mission closed again.

At the 1991 Annual Conference, Bishop F.C. James appointed Rev. Eliza E. Black to pastor the closed mission. This new "Venture of Faith" began on September 19, 1991. The doors of Reid Chapel opened at 8:30 AM. Arriving with the new pastor was her faithful and supporting spouse Theodore, her youngest daughter Antonia Black, two of her grandsons Michael and Renard Black, and a niece Amanda Johnson. By ten o'clock, twenty odd adults and children had come to welcome the new pastor and to share the first morning service ever in the 39 year old history of the mission. When the invitation to membership was extended, Reid Chapel received its first member, Willie M. Martin.

In the Spring of 1994, Reid Chapel purchased a house adjacent to the church's property. Isaac Wims, a member of the community and supporter of Reid Chapel, completely renovated the two bedroom home as a special gift to the church. This property became Reid Chapel's Resource Center. Ground was broken for the Educational Building. It took the congregation only two years to complete the 2560 square foot edifice.

The worship service was moved from the small original block sanctuary to the multipurpose room to the new Educational Building in November, 1995. Church records reveal that there were times that more than 100 worshippers packed into the pews of that little chapel. Many conversions, baptisms, weddings and funerals are logged in the church files. It took less than one conference year to complete the work on the sanctuary.

Officially, Pastor Black was the contractor on record and provided the administrative functions. Her son Randolph Black, a Trustee of the church, a highly skilled brick mason and contractor, directed the work. He also laid many of the blocks himself. The building committee consisted of the faithful Stewards (Henry Murray, Rebecca Hall, Kenneth Black, Rosa Guess, and Marguerite Jones) and Trustees (Randolph Black, Debra Bradley, Almata Murray, Margie Bradley, Christopher Hall, Rachael Madison, Elizabeth Mack, Besena Bradley and Collette Bradley). It was Randolph Black who received the vision and the plan to build the sanctuary furniture. Matthew Jones and Billy Olden assisted in executing the vision. These men literally built the chancellor rail, communion table, offering table and the flower stands. Margie Bradley assisted Billy Olden in finishing the furniture. Most of the wood was donated by Debra Bradley. The decorative work was donated by Williams Furniture Company, Inc. Henry Murray continued to be the dutiful steward and helper.

While the community has called this church Reid Chapel, the founding fathers legally iden-

tified the church as "The Walnut Hill Community AME Church" which remained the official name of the church until December 1997. At that time, proper documents were drawn up and presented to the Rev. Robert L. McCants, Presiding Elder of the Sumter District and the Rt. Rev. John Hurst Adams, the Presiding Bishop of the Seventh Episcopal district of the African AME Church to legally claim the known name, and the "legal" name Walnut Hill Community AME Church was officially removed from all documents.

Today the Reid Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church stands ready to serve all of the citizens of the Walnut Hill Community, and the City and County of Sumter. I appreciate my colleagues joining me in honoring this great church and its outstanding leaders.

REGARDING: REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, in recent years, the Republic of China on Taiwan has emerged as a major economic power in the world. Recent world economic events offer a special lesson in the power of democracies in global economic affairs.

Their economic success is directly attributable to freely elected democratic leadership. These leaders understand that a strong economy is necessary for political reform. The fact that Taiwan has survived the latest Asian financial crisis relatively unscathed is the lesson in the power of democracy.

From its one-party past, the Republic of China has grown into a more sophisticated democracy with a number of political parties. The Republic of China strongly supports individual freedom, human rights, and a dialogue with any other country in the world.

Mr. Speaker, let us show our admiration of our friends in the Republic of China by congratulating them on their 87th National Day, October 10, 1998.

At a time when it is even more apparent that the world's economies are interconnected, the United States can find an oasis of strong economic fundamentals in the Republic of China.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MARY P. SMITH, AN ARDENT LEMONADE MAKER

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, if we are lucky we have come in contact with a person who instinctively makes lemonade out of the lemons of life. There is such a woman in my district who is being honored on Thursday, October 8. She is Dr. Mary Smith. Thirty years ago Dr. Smith saw a need for day care programs in Newark, New Jersey. She used her vision, commitment and steadfastness to establish Babyland Nursery, Inc. Babyland Nursery, Inc., now known as Babyland Family Services, Inc. has evolved into a model for urban day care throughout the nation.

In 1968, Dr. Smith started with 26 children in a seven-room basement apartment in central city Newark to establish one of the first day care programs in the United States and the first non-profit interracial day care center in New Jersey to provide day care for children from 2½ months to five years old. If we go back to 1968, we will remember it was a time that women while moving into the workforce had very limited resources for child care. This sometimes meant that these families had to depend on public assistance for survival rather than become self-sufficient. Today, we see the benefit of providing safe, clean, and educatable day care services. The lack of day care was a lemon to Dr. Smith. She took her knowledge, skills and foresight to make some lemonade that has quenched the thirst of day care need for countless families and children.

Babyland Family Services, Inc. has evolved to comprise 11 different facilities offering 20 separate programs that benefit over 1,500 children, women and families each year. It has a staff of over 200, volunteer support of almost 700 and a reputation that extends to the international arena.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleagues will want to join me in thanking Dr. Mary Smith and Babyland as they are recognized for their hard work and dedication to the health, well-being and education of children from urban areas. I would also like to encourage all citizens to become interested in helping the future, our children, thus ensuring a brighter future for them and the generations to come.

CELEBRATION OF THE COMPLETION OF THE KIDS' CREATED KINGDOM PROJECT

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of the organizers and the volunteers of the Kids' Created Kingdom project. In only five days the volunteers built a 15,000 square foot, state-of-the-art playground complex for the children of Ellwood City. Six hundred people gathered to celebrate their achievements with a picnic and dedication the evening it was finished.

I would like to pay special recognition to some of the key individuals in this project. The Project General Coordinators were Tim Post and Earla Marshall. The Core Committee consisted of Harold Marshall, Cindy Falotico, Joe Carofino, Jeff Berendt, Steve Oliver, Ellwood "Woody" Hazen, Rick and Sharon McClintick, Terri and Larry Crespo, Tom Yoho, Mary Post, Nan Beachem, Beverly Todd, Kim Rangel, Carole Houghton, Julie D'Amico, Cathy Basler, Rosina Betz, Sharon Razani, Wesley Calve, Peggy Figurel, and Robin Lucas. The Construction Site Captains were Bo Rossi, Ernie Mallary, Jerry Maine, Jerry Hulick, Sam and Beth Kasper, Allen Polochak, "Skip" Volpe, Dave Buana, Joe Hawrylak, Jim Palagallo.

These individuals along with many volunteers worked hard to not only construct the playground but to raise the necessary funds. The project planning began in September 1997. They were able to raise the 85,000 dollars needed in only seven months. Again I would like to commend them on their efforts to

improve the community of Ellwood City for its children.

TRIBUTE TO JIM RUPP

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent and dear friend, Mr. "Jolly" Jim Rupp of Decatur, Illinois who has recently passed. He was a devoted public official and my condolences and best wishes go to his family and all who will miss him.

Some of my Illinois colleagues may remember Jim as Decatur's mayor from 1966 to 1976 and state senator until 1986. But anybody who knew Jim, knew him as "Jolly Jim." He was always happy, rarely ever down in spirit. His smile would warm you up on the coldest of mornings, and his personality was genuine. Jim got along with anybody and everybody. This was his best quality not only as a politician, but as a person. He was cut from a different type of political cloth. Jim realized that politics relied on personal qualities, and paying attention to the grass roots. He would make visits just about everywhere he represented to arouse interest in issues, and gain support from constituents. In fact, he was once quoted that he loved making these visits so much, that he could rarely ever complete a personal house chore. Nevertheless, he took the concept of politician to mean personable, and in touch with his constituents, which is a quality public officials still need to follow.

Jim grew up in New Jersey, and served in World War II and the Korean War proudly for this nation. He married Florence Reineke in 1944, who unfortunately passed away last December. He moved to Decatur in the 1950's and became partner and later sole owner of Creighton-Jackson Insurance Agency. Jim was then elected mayor several years later in 1966. He also offered much of his time outside of public office in the Decatur community. Jim was a member of the Rotary International, VFW Post 99, Decatur Shriners Club and the American Legion Post 105. Moreover, Jim was a devout Christian and a charter member of Woodland Chapel Presbyterian Church. He is survived by his sons James and Jeffrey and their families.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mr. Jim Rupp, whose dedication to his community has had a profound impact on those who knew him, including myself. It has been an honor to represent him in the United States Congress. I will miss "Jolly Jim" immensely. His style was so unique and he was so humble. Many of our national and local leaders need to follow in his footsteps to succeed in politics and in life as he did.

A TRIBUTE TO FRANK PALLONE

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, earlier today at a meeting of the Congressional Caucus of India and Indian Americans a number of our

colleagues honored me by electing me Co-Chairman of the Caucus. In doing so, I am being asked to fill a pair of big shoes by succeeding the Caucus's founder and first Co-Chairman, FRANK PALLONE.

Mr. Speaker, the Caucus on India and Indian Americans was founded more than five years ago by FRANK. His district has a large and vibrant Indian American community, and FRANK decided their voice needed to be heard in the Congress. What began as a handful of Members five years ago has been transformed into a thriving Caucus of more than one hundred Members, making the Caucus one of the largest ethnic Caucuses in the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, much of this success and growth is a tribute to FRANK PALLONE's leadership and energy. During his term as Co-Chairman, he has worked tirelessly in the House to improve relations between India, the world's largest democracy, and the United States, the world's oldest democracy. The Caucus has been a forum for important discussions between the Caucus Members and senior politicians, diplomats and industrialists from India. Outside Washington, FRANK also has been very active, traveling to cities around the United States where he has met with hundreds of Indian American community leaders.

Mr. Speaker, as the Caucus of India and Indian Americans enters its sixth year, I know my colleagues join me in congratulating FRANK on a job well done. I am certain the other Members of the Caucus agree with me that we are looking forward to his continued strong participation as a senior Member of the Caucus and to his strong support of the interests of the Indian American Community.

RESOLUTION REASSERTING U.S. OPPOSITION TO THE UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF A PALESTINIAN STATE

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce with Representative JIM SAXTON and Majority Whip TOM DELAY a resolution calling on President Clinton to publicly and unequivocally state that the United States will actively oppose a unilaterally declared Palestinian state and that any such action would have severe negative consequences for Palestinian relations with the United States. Though the United States has traditionally oppose a unilaterally declared Palestinian state, recent statements by the Administration have been ambiguous, and contradictory to its previous policy. This shift in the attitude by the U.S. government has been followed by recent announcements by the Palestinian Authority of their intention to declare a Palestinian state unilaterally. Such a declaration would be a violation of the Oslo Accords. It would also pose a threat to Israel, and it would have a destabilizing effect on the entire Middle East. Therefore, it is urgent that the U.S. reaffirms its opposition to a unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state.

For decades U.S. policy has been to oppose steadfastly the creation of an independent Palestinian state irrespective of how it is declared. The Administration's evolving policy on Palestinian statehood is skillfully explored

in Robert Satloff's piece "New Nuances" that appeared in the July 13th New Republic. The author points to four sets of comments by Administration officials that have called into doubt the longstanding U.S. policy. (1) On May 7th, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton advocated the establishment of a Palestinian state. (2) On May 18th, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Martin Indyk refused to express firm U.S. opposition to the unilateral declaration of an independent Palestinian state, but rather restated traditional U.S. policy as a preference. (3) Also on May 18th, Vice President AL GORE made similar comments. (4) And finally, at a May 28th White House briefing, spokesman Michael McCurry refused to rule out the possibility that the United States would refuse to recognize a unilaterally declared Palestinian state. Mr. Satloff summarized the comments as follows: "The United States strongly prefers a negotiated outcome of final status issues between Israel and the Palestinians and will work to achieve that goal. However, if the two sides do not reach agreement by May 1999 and the Palestinians issue a unilateral declaration of statehood over Israeli objections, the U.S. may or may not recognize that state."

Since these statements by the U.S. government, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, his cabinet and the Palestinian legislature have repeatedly threatened to unilaterally proclaim the establishment of a Palestinian state when the Oslo Accords expire on May 4, 1999. In mid-July, Chairman Arafat stated that "there is a transition period of 5 years and after 5 years we have the right to declare an independent Palestinian state." Even more recently, on September 24th, Chairman Arafat's cabinet threatened to unilaterally declare a Palestinian state that would encompass a portion of Jerusalem: "At the end of the interim period, it (the Palestinian government) shall declare the establishment of a Palestinian state on all Palestinian land occupied since 1967, with Jerusalem as the eternal capital of the Palestinian state." (The Columbian, Mark Lavie, Associated Press, September 25, 1998.) Chairman Arafat continued his push for statehood on September 28th in a speech before the United Nations, calling upon world leaders to support an independent Palestinian state:

I would like to call upon all of you from this place—the source of international legitimacy and peacemaking, the guardian of freedom, security and stability, and the source for the achievement of justice and prosperity for humankind—to stand by our people, especially as the five-year transitional period provided for in the Palestinian-Israeli agreements will end on the 4th of May, 1999 and our people demand of us to shoulder our responsibilities, and they await the establishment of their independent state.

A unilateral declaration of statehood would be a renouncement of the Oslo Accords and could ignite hostilities. The Oslo Accords make no provision for the creation of a Palestinian state and, in fact, prohibit the Palestinian Authority from taking any actions that would affect the sovereignty of the Israeli-administered territories. Earlier this week Assistant Secretary of State Indyk said that a declaration of statehood "becomes a recipe for an almost immediate confrontation . . ." (Hillel Kuttler, Jerusalem Post, October 4, 1998). The threat of designating Jerusalem as the capital